How safe is your family's Internet access?

1. Do you have family rules regarding using the Internet?

2. Have you ever scanned your computer to see what information it contains?

3. Do you regularly check your computer's Internet history log files?

4. Do you know all of the Internet sites that have been accessed by your computer?

5. Do you have Internet filtering software installed on your computer?

6. Do you know the legal penalties for having pornographic material on your computer?

7. Do you know your child's screen name and password? Is the screen name gender neutral?

If you answered "no" to any of these questions, read on...

Call us. | **Someone is waiting to listen and to help.**

For more information contact the center in your area.

CONTACT Huntington Rape Crisis Center
Huntington
304-399-1111

Family Refuge Center
Lewisburg
304-645-6334

REACH, Family Service of Kanawha Valley
Charleston
304-340-3676

Hope, Inc.
Fairmont
304-367-1100

Rape and Domestic Violence Information Center
Morgantown
304-292-5100

Sexual Assault Help Center
Wheeling
304-234-8519

Shenandoah Women's Center
Martinsburg
304-263-8292

Women's Aid In Crisis
Elkins
1-800-339-1185

Women's Resource Center
Beckley
304-255-2559

Or
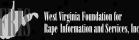**The National Sexual Assault Hotline**
1-800-656-HOPE

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pornography

cyberstalking

WHAT EVERY PARENT

sexual exploitation of children

SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

THE INTERNET

Cyberstalking

Definition

Use of Internet, e-mail or other telecommunications technology to harass or stalk another person.

Statistics

- 75% of children share personal information about themselves willingly over the Internet in exchange for goods and services.
- 60% of online teens have received an e-mail or Instant Message from a total stranger and 63% of these say they have responded to the contact.*
- 56% of online teens have more than one e-mail address or screen name.*

Reduce the Risk

1. Use a gender neutral e-mail address. Avoid provocative or revealing usernames (such as LittleAngel or BlueEyes76) that could attract attention or reveal personal information.
2. Use caution when entering chatrooms. Monitor activity a few minutes before "speaking" or leaving messages. Edit your profile to remove personal information.
3. When posting information, use a third-party e-mail site such as Yahoo or Hotmail.

If You Are a Victim:

1. Get a new account and password from your Internet provider.
2. Save every piece of communication you get from the cyberstalker (print it and copy it to a disk).
3. Tell your harasser directly and state one time only in simple, strong and formal terms to stop contacting you. E-mail a copy to the system administrator or your Internet service provider.
4. Contact the administrator of the harasser's Internet service provider.
5. Contact your local police or file a complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov.

For More Information

www.cybertipline.com
www.cyberangels.org
www.haltabuse.org

*Teenage life online, 2001

What Parents Can Do

1. Put the computer in an accessible place and set limits on Internet use.
2. Check in with your children while they are online; read what they write and receive. Familiarize yourself with popular sites for kids such as www.myspace.com and www.facebook.com.
3. Know your child's screen name.
4. Require that your children print out their 'buddy list' (their online friends' screen names) and identify them.
5. Enforce a list of "Do Nots", including:
   —Do not give out personal information in an e-mail or an Instant Message. (Explain to your child what personal information is—name, address, birth date, etc.)
   —Do not upload your picture.
   —Do not complete personal profiles.
   —Do not share a password with anyone other than a parent or guardian.
   —Do not plan to meet face-to-face with someone you met online.
6. Talk with your child about potential online dangers such as cyberbullying, sexual exploitation or enticement. Explain that people are not always who they say they are. Some sites, such as www.netsmartz.org, have interactive lessons about online safety.
7. Encourage your child to visit "kid-friendly" websites, but remember that anyone, including predators, can access these sites.
8. Be careful about computer security settings. Avoid letting your browser remember passwords and other personal information.
9. Check the computer for any downloads from online sources or e-mails. This can be a warning sign that a child is in contact with a pedophile.
10. Purchase filtering or blocking computer software at a local office supply store. This software can block offensive Internet material, record all violations (whether or not the material is blocked), and/or record all websites visited.

How to Check Your Computer's History

If you use Internet Explorer:
   Internet Explorer > History
   or
   View > Explorer Bar > History
   or
   Control Key and 'h' together

If you use Netscape:
   Netscape Communicator > History
   or
   Tools > History
   or
   Control Key and 'h' together

Pornography and Child Sexual Victimization

Sexual exploitation on the Internet can occur through the transfer of sexually explicit material, seduction through attention, kindness or gifts, sexually explicit conversation, cyberstalking, or direct contact. Pornography is frequently used in child sexual victimization. Sex offenders often send pornography to potential victims to seduce them or initiate sexual discussions. Children are at the greatest risk during the evening hours.

Statistics

- Online predators will contact 77% of children by the age of 14, and 22% of children ages 10-13 will be approached.
- 1 in 4 children had an unwanted exposure to pictures of nude people or people having sex.**
- In the U.S., 1 in 5 children have received unwanted sexual solicitations online.**
- Only 25% of the children who received a sexual solicitation told a parent.**

Who to Contact

Contact the Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov or your local law enforcement agency and the CyberTipLine at www.cybertipline.com or 1-800-843-5678. The FBI recommends—if your child or anyone in your household has received pornography depicting children, your child has been sexually solicited by someone who knows that your child is younger than 18, or your child has received sexually explicit images from someone who knows your child is younger than 18—that you keep the computer turned off to preserve evidence and, unless directed to do so by law enforcement, you should not attempt to copy the images or text.

West Virginia Law Regarding Child Pornography § 61-8C-3

Any person who, with knowledge, sends or causes to be sent, or distributes, exhibits, possesses or displays or transports any material visually portraying a minor engaged in any sexually explicit conduct is guilty of a felony, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned in the penitentiary not more than two years, and fined not more than two thousand dollars.

**Online Victimization: A Report on the Nation's Youth, 2000